

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of keeping a periodically refreshed image on a user's
2 system, the method comprising:

3 receiving a plurality of images;

4 identifying a most interesting image and selecting the most interesting
5 image as a current image; and

6 sending the current image to the user.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the most interesting
2 image comprises:

3 determining movement with the image; and

4 selecting the image with the most movement.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the most interesting
2 image comprises:

3 identifying persons within the image; and

4 selecting the image with the most persons.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the most interesting
2 image comprises:

3 identifying an item of interest; and

4 selecting the image that contains the item of interest.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, when it is time to
2 refresh the image:

3 determining if the current image is still the most interesting image; and

4 refreshing the current image if it is still the most interesting image.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein if the current image is no longer
2 the most interesting image,
3 identifying a most interesting current image; and
4 displaying the most interesting current image.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein a change from a first image to a
2 second image is anti-hysteretic, such the change in the display is slower than an
3 actual change.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein a minimum time is set between
2 changing the current image.

1 9. A apparatus to keep a periodically refreshed image on a user's
2 system, the apparatus comprising:
3 an interface to receive a plurality of images;
4 an interest logic to identify a most interesting image; and
5 an image selector to select the most interesting image as a current image
6 to be sent to the user.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the interest logic comprises:
2 a motion detector to detect movement with the image and select the image
3 with the most motion.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the interest logic comprises:
2 an item identification logic to identify people within the image and to
3 select the image with the most people.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
2 a refresh logic to periodically refresh the image being displayed;
3 the interest logic to determine if the image sent by a current camera is still
4 the most interesting image prior to a refresh; and
5 the refresh logic to refresh the image from the current camera if it is still
6 has the most interesting image.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein if the image from the current
2 camera is no longer the most interesting image, the interest logic is further to
3 identify a most interesting current image; and
4 the refresh logic to refresh the most interesting current image.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein a change from a first image to a
2 second image is anti-hysteretic, such that images change gradually.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein a minimum time is set between
2 changing the current image.

1 19. A system of providing images to a user, the system comprising:
2 a plurality of cameras for periodically obtaining images, and sending the
3 images to a server;
4 a comparison logic to identify a most interesting image from the plurality
5 of cameras; and
6 an interface to send the most interesting image from the server through a

7 network to a user.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the comparison logic is in the
2 server.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the comparison logic is in a camera
2 control system, coupled to the server through a network; and
3 wherein the comparison logic receives images from a plurality of cameras
4 and sends a single image, the most interesting image, to the server.

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